

The Myths of Zionism

John Rose (2004)

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'This is an impressive work of deconstruction with many crucial new insights.... [It is] written in an accessible way, despite the very complicated issues with which Rose deals, such as the cultural and ideological sources of the Zionist narrative.'

ILAN PAPPE *Professor of Middle East History, University of Haifa, Israel*

'In a highly charged environment, Jewish authors played an immense role in elevating the debate about Zionism and the birth of the Israeli State.... John Rose's book is a welcome addition that will defy the pro-Israeli inquisition that seeks, through intimidation, to silence legitimate criticism.'

AFIF SAFIEH *Palestinian General Delegate to the UK*

This controversial book provides a critical account of the historical, political and cultural roots of Zionism. John Rose shows how this powerful political force is based in mythology; ancient, medieval and modern. Rose argues that, as Zionism is a living political force, these myths have been used to justify very real political ends - namely, the expulsion and continuing persecution of the Palestinians.

Chapter-by-chapter, Rose scrutinises the roots of the myths of Zionism. Mobilising recent scholarship, he separates fact from fiction, presenting a detailed analysis of their origins and development. This includes a challenge to Zionism's biblical claims using recent and very startling Israeli archaeological conclusions. He provides a detailed exploration of Judaism's links to the Middle East. He shows clearly that Zionism makes many false claims on Jewish religion and history. He questions - its rationale as a response to European anti-Semitism, and shows that, if there is ever to be peace and reconciliation in the land of Palestine, this intellectual dishonesty must be addressed.

John Rose teaches Sociology at Southwark College and London Metropolitan University.

Zionism - Definition and History. Note - The Zionist movement developed against the background of events in Palestine/Israel and influenced those events. This account of Zionism is meant to be read together with the brief history of Israel and Palestine and History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict since the Oslo Accords. A land without a people for a people without a land - The myth that this is a major slogan of Zionism was propagated by Edward Said (Edward Said, *The Question of Palestine* (New York: Times Books, 1979), p. 9) and Rashid Khalidi (Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997), p. This myth was sedulously cultivated by early Zionists to promote the fiction that Palestine was a remote, desolate place ready for the taking. This claim was quickly followed by denial of Palestinian identity, nationhood or legitimate entitlement to the land in which the Palestinian people have lived throughout their recorded history. The second is the myth of Israeli democracy. This is at once the most pervasive and insidious of the myths about Zionism. Ideologues for the Zionist movement have wrapped themselves in the collective shroud of the six million Jews who fell victim to Nazi mass murder. The bitter and cruel irony of this false claim is that the Zionist movement itself actively colluded with Nazism from its inception. Scrutinising the roots of the myths of Zionism and mobilising recent scholarship, John Rose shows how many of these stories, as with other mythologies, have no basis in fact. However, because Zionism is a living political force and these myths have been used to justify very real and political ends - namely, the expulsion and continuing persecution of the Palestinians. John Rose separates fact from fiction presenting a detailed analysis of their origins and development. This includes a challenge to Zionism's biblical claims using very recent and very startling Israeli archaeological conclu... The Myths of Zionism. John Rose. First published 2004 by Pluto Press.